

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Lustrous copper-based metal flakes that contain, in addition to copper, at least one additional metallic alloy component and are produced via vacuum evaporating of the separate components and wherein each component of the alloy is evaporated separately, deposition of alloy metal films onto a carrier sheet, stripping of the films from the carrier sheet and subsequent comminuting of the films wherein the flakes have plane-parallel surfaces and a thickness of between 20 and 60 nm.

2. (Original) Lustrous copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1, characterized in that the flakes contain at least 60% copper and between 2 and 40% zinc.

3. (Previously Presented) Lustrous copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1, characterized in that the flakes contain silicon as an additional alloy component.

4. (Currently Amended) Lustrous copper-based metal flakes according to f claim 1, characterized in that the flake-shaped effect pigment has ~~plane-parallel surfaces and a~~ thickness between 10 and 100 nm.

5. (Previously Presented) Lustrous, copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1, characterized in that the surface of the pigment particles is coated with an anticorrosive layer.

6. (Original) Lustrous copper-based metal flakes according to claim 5, characterized in that the anticorrosive layer contains aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, phosphate, phosphoric acid, phosphoric ester, phosphinic acid, silanes, organically modified silicates, titanates, zirconates or methacrylate-based polymer layers or combinations of these compounds.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing lustrous, copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1 wherein in the at least one additional alloy component is zinc with the following process steps:

- a) optionally applying a release coat on a carrier sheet;
- b) applying of a metal film onto the release coat or the carrier sheet;
- c) stripping of the metal film; and
- d) comminuting to pigment particles.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for producing lustrous copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1 with the following process steps:

- a) applying of a metal film onto a carrier sheet;
- b) dissolving of the carrier sheet; and
- c) comminuting of the metal film to pigment particles.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, characterized in that applying of the metal film takes place by separate evaporation of the alloy components.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, characterized in that applying of the metal film takes place through separate evaporation of an alloy and one or more additional components.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, characterized in that applying of the metal film takes place through electron beam, resistance heating, or radiation heating.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, characterized in that applying of the metal film takes places through flash evaporation, simultaneous evaporation, or jumping beam evaporation.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)